

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard.

Though I prefer the federal government to maintain as little a presence in the lives of the public it serves, I also believe individuals deserve protection from corporations which enjoy the same freedoms as individuals but have far more resources with which to use those freedoms. The result: they can shape the views of other individuals disproportionately. I defer to you, the FCC, to step in and protect Americans who have no choice but to stand in the shadows of these giant monoliths and take what little light we can find.

Thanks for you time,
Adrian